Being so near the truth, as I will make
them. Must first induce you to believe :
whose strength I will confirm with oath;
which, I doubt not, Youll give me leave
to spare, when you shall find You need it
not.

POST. Proceed.

IACH.

First, her bed-chamber,
(Where, I confess, I slept not; but, profess,
Had that was well worth watching[5],) It was hang'd
With tapestry of silk and silver; the story
Proud Cleopatra, when she met her Roman,
And Cydnus swell'd above the banks, or for
The press of boats, or pride[6]: A piece of work
So bravely done, so rich, that it did strive
In workmanship, and value ; which, I wonder'd,
Could be so rarely and exactly wrought*
Since the true life on't was —[7]

POST. This is true [8];

5Had that was well worth watching,] i. e. that which was
well worth watching, or lying awaked/or. See p. 73, n. 3.
MALONE.

[6] And Cydnus swell'd above the banks, or for
The press of boats, or pride :] lachimo's language is such as a skilful villain would naturally use^ a mixture of any triumph and serious deposition. His gaiety shows his seriousness to be without anxiety,, and his seriousness proves his gaiety to be without art.
JOHNSON*

7-----which, I wonder'd,
Could be so rarely and exactly wrought, SINCE the true life on't was —] This passage is nonsense as it stands, and therefore the editors have supposed to be an imperfect sentence. But I believe we should amend it by reading—
** *Such* the true life on't was."
instead of *since** We frequently say the life of a picture, or of a statue; and without alteration the sentence is not complete.
. M. MASON.

[8] This is true;] The present deficiency in the metre, shows that some word has been accidentally omitted in this or in the preceding hemistich. Sir Thomas Hanmer reads : " *Why* this is true.'*
STEEVENS.